

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: August 28, 2003

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for Watershed Management Program EIS(DOE/EIS-0265/SA-121)

to: John Piccininni
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager, KEWR-4
Proposed Action: Reducing Water Temperature on the Teanaway River

Project No: 2002-021-00 follow-up review, [8/03]

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis
(See App. A of the Watershed Management Program Final EIS): 4.6 Sprinkler Irrigation; 4.8 Water Conveyance: Ditches and Canals; 4.10 Water Conveyance: Pipeline; 2.2 Plant/Protect Conifers in Riparian Area for Thermal Cover

Location: Teanaway River, Kittitas County, Washington

Proposed by: State of Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: A CX for this project was prepared June 7, 2002 to address field and lab research, inventory, monitoring, and information gathering to reduce temperatures and meet state water quality standards in the Teanaway River. Studies show that the Teanaway River system is impaired by high summer water temperatures, that exceed Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).

Ecology, via the Kittitas County Conservation District, and BPA now propose:

1. Irrigation upgrades, and
2. A riparian tree planting initiative, to help meet the following project objectives:
 - a. Increase irrigation efficiency on agricultural lands.
 - b. Increase stream flows, and
 - c. Restore riparian vegetation along the river's edge to increase shade and stabilize the banks. The water for the irrigation upgrades is proposed to be developed/withdrawn from individual private ponds/wells or ring wells, and distributed through pressurized pipelines to distribute water to agricultural lands more efficiently.

This new irrigation system will replace the need for water withdrawal directly from the Teanaway River. Because about 4 cfs total withdrawals would no longer be needed, water volume would be allowed to remain in the river and therefore temperatures would not rise. Best management practices (i.e., NRCS Field Office Technical Guides), are planned to be implemented.

The second primary aspect to this project would be the planting of about 5,000 native trees along 7.5 miles of riparian habitat of the Teanaway River. This shading will inevitably help maintain cooler water temperatures and prevent the warming factor. Native trees will be planted by hand in streambank areas susceptible to erosion, and where stream shading can contribute to reduced water temperature.

The Biological Assessment (dated June 26, 2003), describes the proposed work and the reference W:\KEC\CXs-EQ15\F&W CXs\Teanaway Water Temperature, provides some background of this project. The environmental project file is maintained in KEC.

Analysis: The National Environmental Policy Act compliance checklist for this project was completed by: Chris Hall, of the Washington Department of Ecology on April 30, 2002. Rusty Gigstead of the Kittitas County Conservation District verified in July 2003 that the 2002 checklist information was accurate and up-to-date. The project as currently proposed, meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) as identified above.

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that could occur in the general vicinity of the proposed project are the Ute's ladies-tresses (t), bald eagle (t), northern spotted owl (t), marbled murrelet (t), grizzly bear (t), gray wolf (e), grizzly bear, and bull trout (t). In its Biological Assessment (BA), BPA determined "will not affect" for the ladies-tresses, marbled murrelet, and gray wolf, and "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" for the bald eagle, northern spotted owl, grizzly bear, bull trout, Upper Columbia River summer steelhead, and Upper Columbia River Spring Chinook Salmon. On June 26, 2003, BPA requested the Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) to review and concur with the BA for species under their jurisdiction, and on July 2, 2003, the FWS concurred with BPA's findings of "may affect, but not likely to adversely affect" contingent upon implementation of the conservation measures identified in the BA.

On July 15, 2003, BPA also submitted the BA to National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration Fisheries (NOAA) for review and concurrence and on August 13, 2003, NOAA Fisheries concurred with BPA's findings. The project sponsor is responsible to comply with the BA's conservation measures that avoid, minimize, or otherwise offset potential adverse effects to designated Essential Fish Habitat.

Because of their physical location near the project, and because they have an archaeologist on staff, in June, 2003 the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) agreed to be the lead Federal agency for cultural resources consultation. Accordingly, NRCS initiated consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on June 27, 2003 and the letter was also copied to the Yakima Nation and Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. On July 29, 2003, the NRCS forwarded a copy of the cultural resources investigations on this project to SHPO and requested concurrence. On August 4, 2003, the SHPO issued its concurrence letter with the recommendation that a qualified archaeologist be onsite during trenching and excavation activities of construction. A monitoring plan has been drafted and the project sponsor will be onsite during project construction to identify any cultural resources that may be uncovered.

Construction will not be authorized to begin until the applicant has obtained all required permits and approvals.

Public involvement has taken place as part of the Teanaway water temperature project. The Teanaway River Temperature workgroup has cooperatively developed the TMDL that included a Summary Implementation Strategy and 30-day comment period. The TMDL was approved January 29, 2002 by Environmental Protection Agency.

This workgroup is made up of local landowners, Kittitas County, Kittitas County Conservation District, Kittitas Reclamation (Irrigation), and state and Federal agencies including National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, NRCS, WDFW, and WDOE. Public involvement has also taken place through general informational sources including public meetings, newspaper articles, and local workshops. Close communication with the location farm owners has been imperative.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Watershed Management Program that are relevant to environmental concerns; and 2) there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the Watershed Management Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Carl J. Keller

Carl J. Keller

Fish and Wildlife Biologist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: August 28, 2003

Attachments:

USFWS letter of concurrence, July 2, 2003

NOAA letter of concurrence, August 13, 2003

SHPO letter of concurrence, August 4, 2003

cc: (w/attachments)

Ms. Pat Irle, Washington Department of Ecology, 15 W. Yakima Avenue, Ste 200, Yakima, WA 98902

Ms. Anna Lael, District Manager, Kittitas County Conservation District, 607 E. Mountain View Avenue, Ellensburg, WA 98926

Mr. Rusty Gigstead, Kittitas County Conservation District, 607 E. Mountain View Avenue, Ellensburg, WA 98926